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jc929 U.S. PTO
09/15/00

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Date: **September 15, 2000**

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" SERVICE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10 ON THE DATE INDICATED ABOVE AND IS ADDRESSED TO: BOX PATENT APPLICATION, COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS, WASHINGTON, DC 20231-0001.

TYPED NAME **Vincent Diaz**

SIGNED Vincent M. Diaz

File No. **A-69227/MAK/LM**

Box PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231-0001

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of inventor(s):

jc759 U.S. PTO
09/663069
09/15/00

Anandakumar Varatharajah

For: ***AN ELECTRONIC SHOPPING SERVICE***

Enclosed are also:

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement, PTO 1449 & __ references
- ☒ 17 sheets of Specification, Abstract and Claims
- ☒ 13 sheets of drawings. Formal ____, Informal X
- ☐ An Assignment of the invention to: _____
  (cost of recording to be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1300 (Order No. /))
- ☐ Power of Attorney by Assignee
- ☐ Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application
- ☒ Declaration for Patent Application **(UNSIGNED)**
- ☐ Associate Power of Attorney
- ☐ Small Entity Status Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b)

	(Col. 1) NO. FILED	(Col. 2) NO. EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE	SMALL ENTITY FEE	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY FEE
BASIC FEE				$ 345		$ 690
TOTAL CLAIMS	13 - 20 =	0	x 9 =	$	x 18 =	$
INDEP CLAIMS	2 - 3 =	0	x 39 =	$	x 78 =	$
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENTED		[ ]	+130 =	$	+260 =	$
If the difference in Col 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in Col. 2			TOTAL	$ 345	TOTAL	$ 0

- ☐ Our check No. ____ in the amount of $_____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, including extension fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1300 (our Order No. A-69227/MAK/LM).

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT APPLICATION

AN ELECTRONIC SHOPPING SERVICE

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AN ELECTRONIC SHOPPING SERVICE

BACKGROUND

This invention relates to electronic commerce. More specifically, this invention relates to electronic-transaction records, depositories for such records and the use of such records in subsequent electronic transactions.

A not atypical web-based shopping experience involves a consumer going to the website of a first merchant — a toy retailer, for example — to find and purchase a first item, then navigating to a second merchant — a big-box discount retailer, for example — to find and purchase a second item, etc. The consumer pays for the first item at the checkout page of the first merchant, for the second item at the checkout page of the second merchant and for subsequent items at the checkout pages of respective merchants.

The checkout "page" of a website, however, tends to be several pages long. The process of checking out can mean filling in forms on one page after another. Where the checkout page sequence is not particularly well implemented, a mistake on one page may require the consumer to re-enter not only the information entered improperly on a form but all information on the form — even the correctly entered information. The penalties for errors are multiplied where a consumer visits multiple websites in a shopping excursion.

Accordingly, the art seeks a shopping service that simplifies the shopping process for a consumer that shops at multiple websites.

These and other goals of the invention will be readily apparent

to one of skill in the art on reading the background above and the description below.

SUMMARY

Herein are described apparatus and methods for an electronic shopping service. The service enables a consumer to select line items from electronic receipts and group them as a review list. The consumer may create groups of people to have access to the review list and may assign access permissions to each of the review groups.

A member of a review group may review the items in a review list and comment on the items. The comments may be directed to the consumer or to other members of the review group. The review may be off-line or on-line, as in a chat session or telephone or audiovisual conference.

The consumer or a review-group member may order on-line any of the items listed in a review list. The consumer or a review-group member may add products from e-commerce sites to the review list (if so authorized).

The shopping service handles the ordering. Where the items to be purchased are from multiple e-commercial sites, the shopping service places multiple orders as necessary, with shipping and payment as directed by the consumer.

The shopping service may enable the consumer or a review-group member to match items from a review list for comparison. The comparison may be visual, cost-wise, etc.

The service may enable a consumer to upload data to use in the item comparison. Such data may include images of the consumer or of his belongings, for example.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a diagram illustrating an electronic shopping system incorporating one embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2 schematically illustrates the SSP of **Figure 1**, according to one embodiment of the invention.

Figure 3 illustrates the process a shopping-service provider may follow to enable product review.

Figures 4A - 4B and **5A - 5B** illustrate parallel processes that a consumer and an e-merchant may respectively perform.

Figures 6A - 6B and **7A - 7B** illustrate parallel processes that a consumer and an electronic shopping system may respectively perform.

Figures 8 and **9** illustrate parallel processes that a consumer and a shopping-service provider may respectively follow to enable product ordering.

DOCKET NO. 60035.0050

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC EMBODIMENTS

OVERVIEW

Figure 1 is a diagram illustrating an electronic shopping system **100** incorporating one embodiment of the invention. The system **100** includes one or more e-merchants **120**, one or more data farms **140**, one or more shopping-service providers (SSPs) **150**, one or more personal computers **190** and optional application service providers (ASPs) **1A0**. The system **100** also includes a communications links **180**.

The communications link **180** communicatively interconnects the e-merchants **120**, data farms **140**, SSPs **150**, personal computers **190** and ASPs **1A0**. Where the link **180** is an internet, the e-merchants **120**, data farms **140**, personal computers **190** and ASPs are each a host on the internet **180**, allowing any one to communicate with any other one through that internet **180**. (Any number of these "hosts" may be only nominally so, their actual status more likely to depend on the directness of their connection to that internet **180** - through optional service providers not shown, for example.)

An e-merchant **120** may be a retail website on the world-wide web. Using conventional web and internet protocols, a consumer at a personal (or other) computer **190** transacts business at an e-merchant **120**. The consumer typically thereby creates a record of that transaction.

A data farm **140** provides an electronic-receipts repository for receiving and storing that transaction record. The data farm may provide an electronic-receipts service for manipulating that transaction record, including retrieving and forwarding it on demand.

The optional application providers **1A0** support the transactions of an e-merchant **120**. For example, an ASP **1A0** may verify credit or debit cards or may authorize credit- or debit-card transactions.

A shopping-service provider (SSP) **150** cooperates with e-merchants **120**, data farms **140** and computers **190** to provide shopping

services described herein. **Figure 3** illustrates the process an SSP **150** may follow to enable product review.

For example, under direction of a consumer at a computer **190**, the SSP**150** may retrieve some of the consumer's transaction records from data farms **140**, **step 310**, and enable the consumer to select line items from those transaction records, **step 320**, thereby creating a review list, **step 330**. The SSP **150** may also enable the consumer to identify a group of other consumers who may access — and even modify — his list.

Figure 2 schematically illustrates an SSP **150**, according to one embodiment of the invention. The SSP **150** may include one or more of the following: a central processing unit ("CPU") **151**, a memory **152**, a user interface **153**, a port **154**, a communications interface **155** and an internal bus **156**. The bus **156** communicatively connects the CPU **151**, the memory **152**, the user interface **153**, the port **154** and the communications interface **155**.

(Of course, in an embedded system, some of these components may be missing, as is well understood in the art of embedded systems. In a distributed computing environment, some of these components may be on separate physical machines, as is well understood in the art of distributed computing.)

The memory **152** includes high-speed, volatile random-access memory (RAM) **1522**, as well as non-volatile memory such as read-only memory (ROM) **1521** and magnetic disk drives. Further, the memory **152** contains software **1523**. The software **1523** is layered: Application software **15231** communicates with the operating system **15232**, and the operating system **15232** communicates with its I/O subsystem **152321**. The I/O subsystem **152321** communicates with the CPU **151**, the user interface **153** and the communications interface **155** by means of the communications bus **156**.

The memory **152** may be programmed according to the shopping services described herein. Likewise, where the e-merchant **120**,

the data farm **140**, the computer **190** or ASP **1A0** is (fully or partially) implemented by a computer system, the memory of that computer system may be programmed according to the shopping services described herein.

An e-merchant **120** may be a retail website on the world-wide web. The hardware and software enabling an e-merchant are notorious in the art and not described herein. The e-merchant **120** includes a shopping-service software client **121**, corresponding to and cooperating with an SSP **150**.

A data farm **140** may be an electronic-receipts repository, along with an electronic-receipts service. Scott et al., U.S. Patent Application No. 09/480,883, entitled, "An Electronic-Receipts Service," filed January 10, 2000, with Attorney Docket No. A-65188-1/MAK/LM and commonly assigned to ReceiptCity.com, San Jose, California, describes one such electronic-receipts repository and service. (Scott et al. is incorporated herein by reference.) The website www.ReceiptCity.com, made available by the assignee of the instant application, is another example of an electronic-receipts repository and service.

A computer **190** may include a web browser **191** or other software **191** for communicating with the e-merchants **120**, data farms **140** and SSPs **150** over the link **180**. The software **191** may include an SSP client **192** and an electronic-receipts-service client **193**.

SHOPPING SERVICES

— Multi-merchant Purchasing

In one embodiment, once e-merchants **120α** have each installed a shopping-service client **121**, a consumer may navigate to the website of a first e-merchant **120a**, **step 410**. **Figures 4A - 4B** and **5A - 5B** illustrate parallel processes that a consumer and an e-merchant may respectively perform.

The consumer may peruse that e-merchant **120a**'s goods and select one or more for purchase, **step 420**. The e-merchant **120a** may offer the consumer the option of continuing to shop at this e-merchant site **120a**, **step 520**, proceeding to checkout (including paying for the selected goods at this e-merchant site **120a**), **step 540**, or continuing to shop — but at another e-merchant site **120b** — and paying for goods selected at this e-merchant site **120a** at the other e-merchant site **120b**, **steps 5D0** through **5H0**.

The first option is currently available and well known in the art of web retailing. Accordingly. the option of continuing to shop at the current e-merchant **120a** is not described further herein.

Regarding the second option, along the way to payment, the e-merchant **120a** may ask the consumer whether a shopping service **150** currently holds other items to be purchased, **step 560**. If the consumer answers in the negative, **step 570**, the SSP **150** may check out the consumer in the conventional manner — without further reference to the shopping service **150**, **step 580**. This check-out procedure is also well known in the art of web retailing and is not described further herein.

If the consumer answers in the positive, **step 570**, the e-merchant **120a** may query the consumer for his shopping-service identity and, possibly, an authenticator (a user identifier and corresponding password, for example), **step 590**. The e-merchant **120a** (more precisely, the e-merchant SSP client **121**) may then query the SSP **150** to verify the user identifier and authenticate the consumer's right to access that user's account, **step 5A0**. On verification and authentication, the e-merchant **120a** may transfer line-item information as necessary to the SSP **150**, **step 60** (for the SSP **150** later to order the consumer-selected goods on the e-merchant **120a** or for the SSP **150** later to get more information about any of the consumer-selected goods from the e-merchant **120a**, for example). The e-merchant **120a** transfers the shopper to the SSP **150**, **step 5C0**. The SSP **150** may complete the check out of the consumer, including the goods

selected from the first and any other e-merchants **120 .**

(In an alternate embodiment, the SSP client **121** of an e-merchant **120** may be sufficiently intelligent to receive line-item information from the SSP **150** and to check out the consumer using the resources of the e-merchant **120** rather than those of the SSP **150.**)

If, however, the consumer chooses the option of continuing to shop at a different e-merchant **120b**, **step 550**, the e-merchant **120a** may ask for a shopping-service identity and, possibly, an authenticator, **step 5D0.** The e-merchant **120** may then query the SSP **150** to verify the user identity and authenticate the consumer's right to access that user's account, **step 5E0.** On verification and authentication, the e-merchant **120** may transmit line-item information for the selected e-merchant **120a** goods to the SSP **150**, **step 5F0.** On successful transmission, the SSP **150** may inform the consumer that the SSP **150** has the selected-goods line-item information and that the SSP **150** or any merchant **120α** will check out the consumer at the end of his shopping, **step 5G0.** The consumer may then navigate (including being referred) to the second e-merchant **120b** website, **step 5H0.**

Alternatively, the consumer may directly log on to an SSP **150**, **step 610**, providing his shopping-service identity. (**Figures 6A - 6B** and **7A - 7B** illustrate parallel processes that a consumer and an electronic shopping system may respectively perform.) From there, the consumer may navigate to the first e-merchant **120a**'s website, **step 620**, select goods for purchase, **step _4B30**, opt to continue shopping at a second e-merchant **120b**, **step 640**, navigate to that second e-merchant **120**'s website, **step 650**, and select goods at the e-merchant **120b** website for purchase, **step 660.** In this alternative scenario, the consumer may navigate from e-merchant **120** to e-merchant **120** without re-entering a shopping-service identifier and corresponding authenticator. The SSP **150** may provide this information on referring the consumer to the first merchant **120a**, **step 620.** The SSP **150** or the e-merchant **120a** may provide the information on referring the

consumer to the second e-merchant **120b**, **step 630** or **step 5H0**.

On either approach to the second e-merchant **120b** website, on check out, the second e-merchant **120b** website offers the consumer the same options as did the first: continuing to shop at this e-merchant site **120b**, **step 520** or **step 720**, proceeding to checkout from this e-merchant site **120b**, **step 540** or **step 740**, or continuing to shop at another e-merchant site **120α**, paying for the selected goods at this other e-merchant site **120α**.

Where the e-merchant **120** knows the consumer's shopping-service identifier and corresponding authenticator, it need not query the user about what information the SSP **150** is maintaining on behalf of the consumer. The knowledgeable e-merchant **120** may query the SSP **150** directly for that information, **step 760**, or the SSP **150** may have transferred that information (along with the service identifier, for example) when referring the consumer. On learning that the SSP **150** holds information regarding goods selected from other e-merchants **120α**, the e-merchant **120b** transfers line-item information as necessary to the SSP **150**, step **7B0**. The e-merchant **120** transfers the shopper to the SSP **150**, **step 7C0**. The SSP **150** completes the check out of the consumer, including the goods selected from the first and second e-merchants **120**.

Where the SSP **150** does not hold information regarding goods selected from another e-merchant **120α**, the e-merchant **120b** may itself complete the check out of the consumer, **step 780**.

— Product Review

Once an e-merchant **120α** has installed an electronic-receipts-service client **122**, a consumer may navigate to a website **120α** and purchase goods from that website **120α**. The e-merchant **120α** may forward a record of that transaction to an electronic-records service **140**. Alternatively, a consumer may direct the SSP **150** to retrieve that transaction record for manipulation on the SSP **150** as described herein.

The SSP **150** may then present details of the transaction record to the consumer, allowing the consumer to select one or more line items from the transaction record as a review list. The SSP **150** may allow the consumer to specify the level of detail with which the items composing the review list are listed.

The SSP may also allow the consumer to associate a review group of one or more SSP user identities with the review list, **step 340**. The consumer associated with one of the SSP identifies will thus have the consumer's permission to access the review list. The reviewing SSP users may comment on the list individually or in a group setting such as a chat session, **step 350**. The comments may be text, audio or audiovisual.

Alternate embodiments include the following: The consumer may direct the electronic-records service **140** to forward that transaction record to the SSP **150**. The SSP **150** may present multiple transaction records and allow the consumer to select one or more line items from each of the multiple transaction records to form one review list. The SSP **150** may allow the consumer to specify the level of detail with which an individual item on the review list is listed.

— Product Ordering

Figures 8 and **9** illustrate parallel processes that a consumer and a shopping-service provider may respectively follow to enable product ordering. A consumer may have access to a list of one or more products from a transaction record for a single- or multi-merchant purchase he transacted. The consumer may have access to a list of one or more products from a review list that he has created or to which he has been given access. At **step 830**, the consumer may use a transaction record or a review list as a purchase list for initiating a purchase transaction, or the consumer may create a purchase list: A consumer may create a purchase list by selecting line items from one or more transaction records, from one or more review lists or from a combination of one or more transactions records

and one or more review lists.

The SSP **150** may offer for purchase items related to items on a transaction record, review list or purchase list, **step 910**. For example, where a transaction record lists a portable MP3 player, the SSP **150** may offer to include on a purchase list batteries, upgrade headphones or expansion memory for that particular MP3 player — even though or because these items may not have appeared on the transaction record. Likewise, where a transaction record includes a Mattel Corp. Barbie® doll, the SSP **150** may offer any or all of the accessories for that particular model of Barbie® doll. The SSP **150** may offer a companion product (the Ken doll, for example), a product from the same company (Learning Company software, for example) or a product from a partnership, alliance or otherwise affiliated company, etc.

The consumer may indicate to the SSP **150** that he has completed his purchase list and submit that purchase list to the SSP **150**, **step 840**. On behalf of the consumer, the SSP **150** then places one or more orders with the one or e-merchants selling the corresponding items on the purchase list, **step 950**. The payment method may be identical for all of the orders or may vary across the orders, at the consumer's discretion. The order(s) may be placed immediately, or all or some may be deferred, again at the consumer's discretion.

— Product Comparison

Given an item in a transaction record, review list or purchase list, the shopping service may offer one or more substitute goods to the consumer for purchase, **step 920**. The shopping service may offer substitutes unbidden or at the direction of the consumer.

The substitute item may be from the same manufacturer but, for example, an upgrade or downgrade model. The substitute item may be from a competing manufacturer.

The shopping service may offer samples of the substitute item

and of the original item, permitting a comparison of the two, **step 920**. The samples may be images, sounds, smells, etc.

An SSP user may himself provide a sample against which a potential purchase may be compared, **step 925**. The consumer may upload an image of their body, car interior, living room, etc. This enables, for example, the consumer to test products like clothes, hats, sunglasses and shoes with the virtual body, seat covers with the virtual car interior and wall papers with the virtual living room. The shopping service may permit samples of the original and substitute items to be presented simultaneously and, where appropriate, side by side.

For a sophisticated system for presenting virtual products, see Bunn et al., U.S. Patent Application No. 09/615,363, entitled, "A Virtual-Product Presentation System," filed July 13, 2000, with Attorney Docket No. A-68295/MAK/LM, and assigned to @POS.COM, INC., San Jose, California. Bunn et al., U.S. Patent Application No. 09/615,363 is incorporated herein by reference.

The shopping service may compare the line item to other similar items based on price, **step 920**. Indeed, the shopping service may aggregate orders from multiple consumers for a given item in order to create a bulk order and thereby receive a discount for the items, **step 950**. The service may not pass on the entire discount to the consumers.

Indeed, the invention now being fully described, many changes and modifications that can be made thereto without departing from the spirit or scope of the appended claims will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art. For example, the electronic-receipts service **140** and the SSP **150** may, of course, be combined into one service.

As another example, the consumer may add items to his purchase list that were not in a transaction record or review list and not offered by the SSP **150**, **step 930**. A consumer may add items to a review list where the creator of the review list has given him that permission (or he

himself is the creator), **step 350**.

As still another example, the service may provide advertisements, promotions, surveys coupons and other marketing material to the SSP client **192** for display on a consumer's computer **190**. The service may target the marketing material to the particular consumer.

This specification incorporates by reference all publications and patent applications mentioned herein, to the same extent if the specification had specifically and individually incorporated by reference each such individual publication or patent application.

DOCKET NO. 30056.56.0

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for manipulating receipt data, the method comprising:

selecting a first line item from a first electronic receipt, thereby forming a list; and

authorizing a group of people to review the list.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of

reviewing the list, the reviewing performed by one of the group of people.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of selecting comprises

selecting a first line item corresponding to a first product; and wherein the step of reviewing comprises

sensing a reproduction of the first product.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of selecting comprises

selecting a first line item corresponding to a first product; and wherein the step of reviewing comprises

viewing a reproduction of the first product.

5. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of

placing a order for the first line item.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of reviewing comprises

viewing and commenting on the list.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of

selecting a second line item from the first electronic receipt and adding that second line item to the list.

8. The method of claim **1**, further comprising the step of

selecting a second line item from a second electronic receipt and adding that second line item to the list.

9. A method for purchasing goods, including services, from multiple merchants, the method comprising:

selecting first and second goods for purchase on respective first and second websites; and

paying for the first and second goods with one transaction from a consumer perspective.

10. The method of claim **9**, wherein the step of paying comprises

automatically placing first and second orders for the first and second goods with the respective first and second websites.

11. The method of claim **9**, wherein before the step of paying, the following step is performed:

juxtaposing a reproduction of the first selected goods to a reproduction of the second selected goods.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of

downloading the retrieved electronic record.

13. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of

viewing an advertisement during the step of retrieving.

AN ELECTRONIC SHOPPING SERVICE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Apparatus and methods for an electronic shopping service. The service enables a consumer to select line items from electronic receipts and group them as a review list. The consumer may create groups of people to have access to the review list and may assign access permissions to each of the review groups. A member of a review group may review the items in a review list and comment on the items. The comments may be directed to the consumer or to other members of the review group. The review may be off-line or on-line, as in a chat session or telephone or audiovisual conference. The consumer or a review-group member may order on-line any of the items listed in a review list. The consumer or a review-group member may add products from e-commerce sites to the review list (if so authorized). The shopping service handles the ordering. Where the items to be purchased are from multiple e-commercial sites, the shopping service places multiple orders as necessary, with shipping and payment as directed by the consumer. The shopping service may enable the consumer or a review-group member to match items from a review list for comparison. The comparison may be visual, cost-wise, etc. The service may enable a consumer to upload data to use in the item comparison. Such data may include images of the consumer or of his belongings, for example.

Docket No. 50277-0950

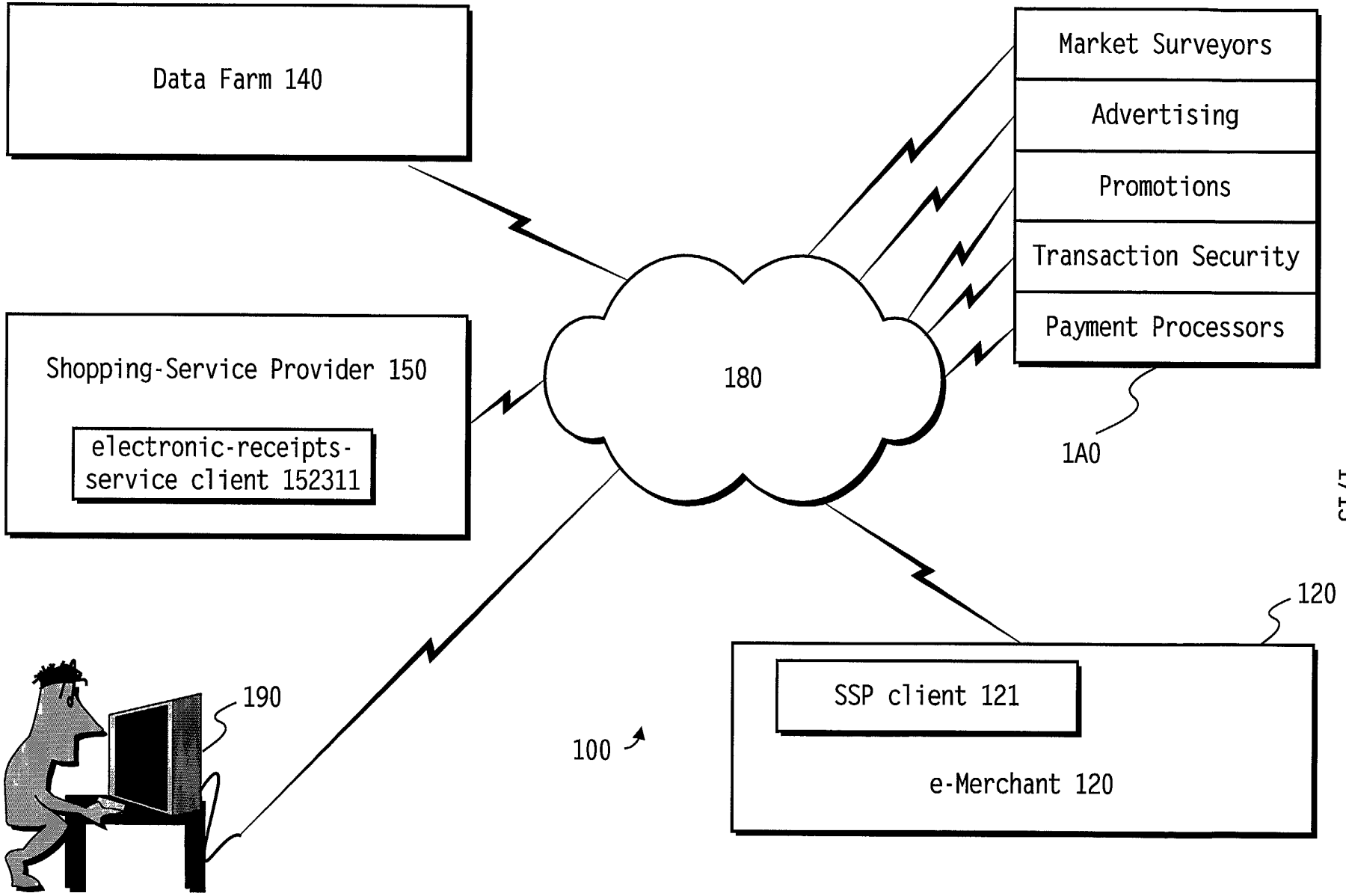

Data Farm 140
Market Surveyors
Advertising
Promotions
Transaction Security
Payment Processors
Shopping-Service Provider 150
electronic-receipts-service client 152311
180
1A0
120
SSP client 121
e-Merchant 120
190
100

Figure 1

00ST60" 69029960

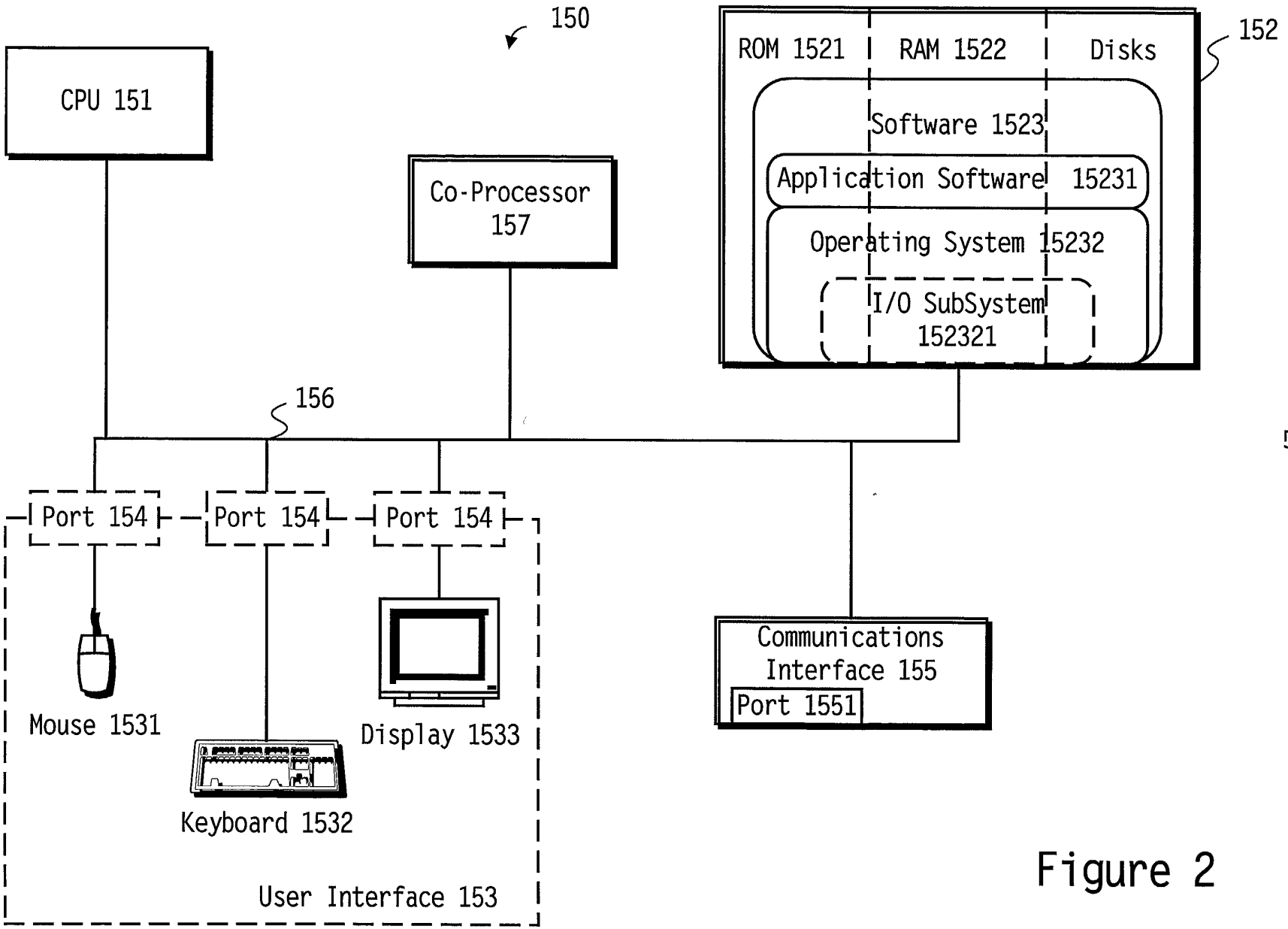


Figure 2

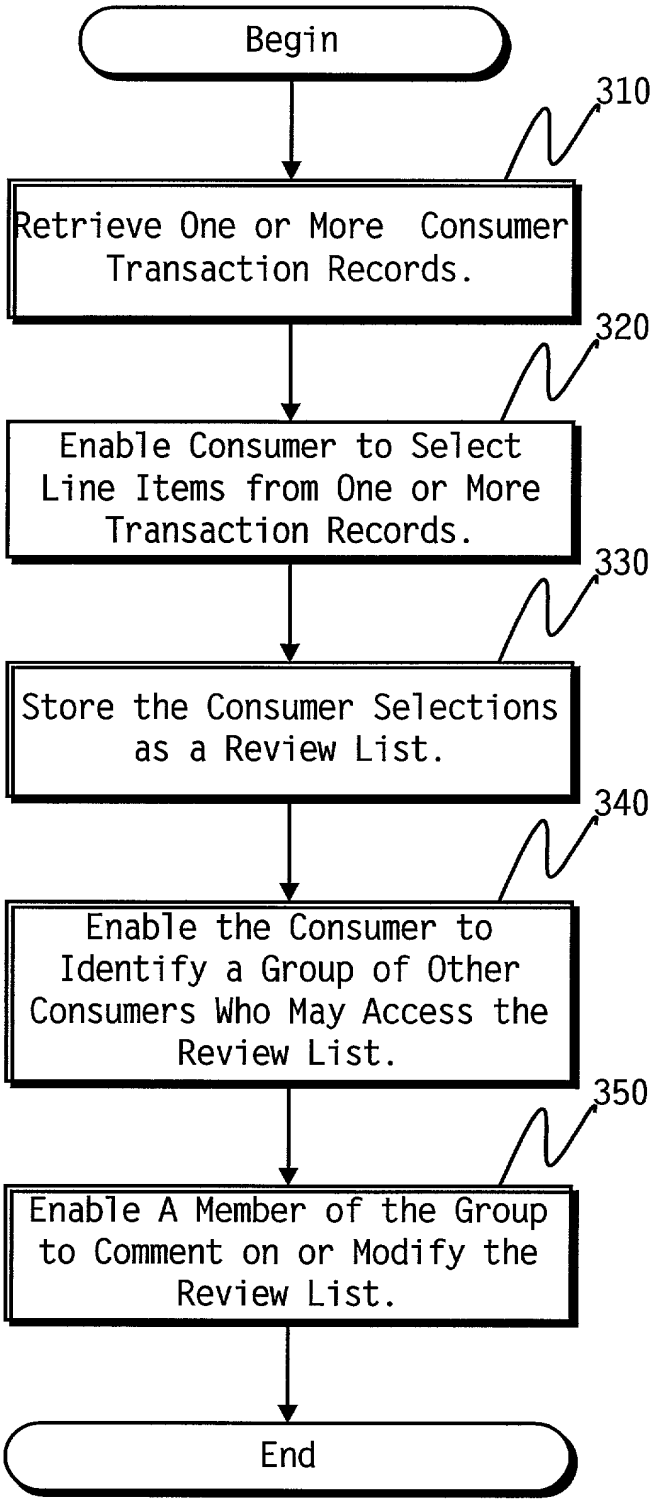


Figure 3

0095-0095-0095-0095

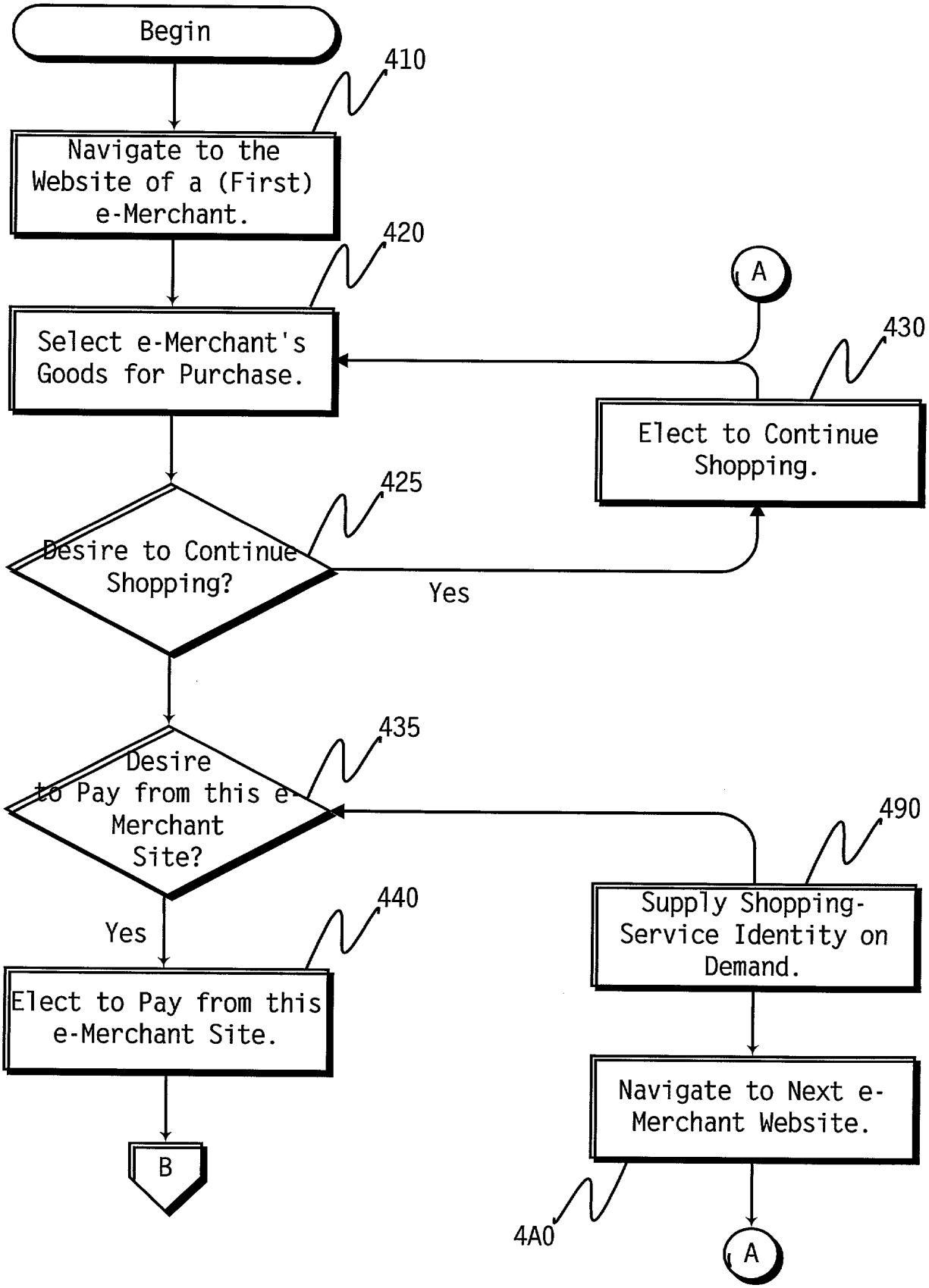

Begin
410
Navigate to the Website of a (First) e-Merchant.
420
Select e-Merchant's Goods for Purchase.
A
430
Elect to Continue Shopping.
425
Desire to Continue Shopping?
Yes
435
Desire to Pay from this e-Merchant Site?
490
Supply Shopping-Service Identity on Demand.
Yes
440
Elect to Pay from this e-Merchant Site.
B
Navigate to Next e-Merchant Website.
4A0
A

Figure 4A

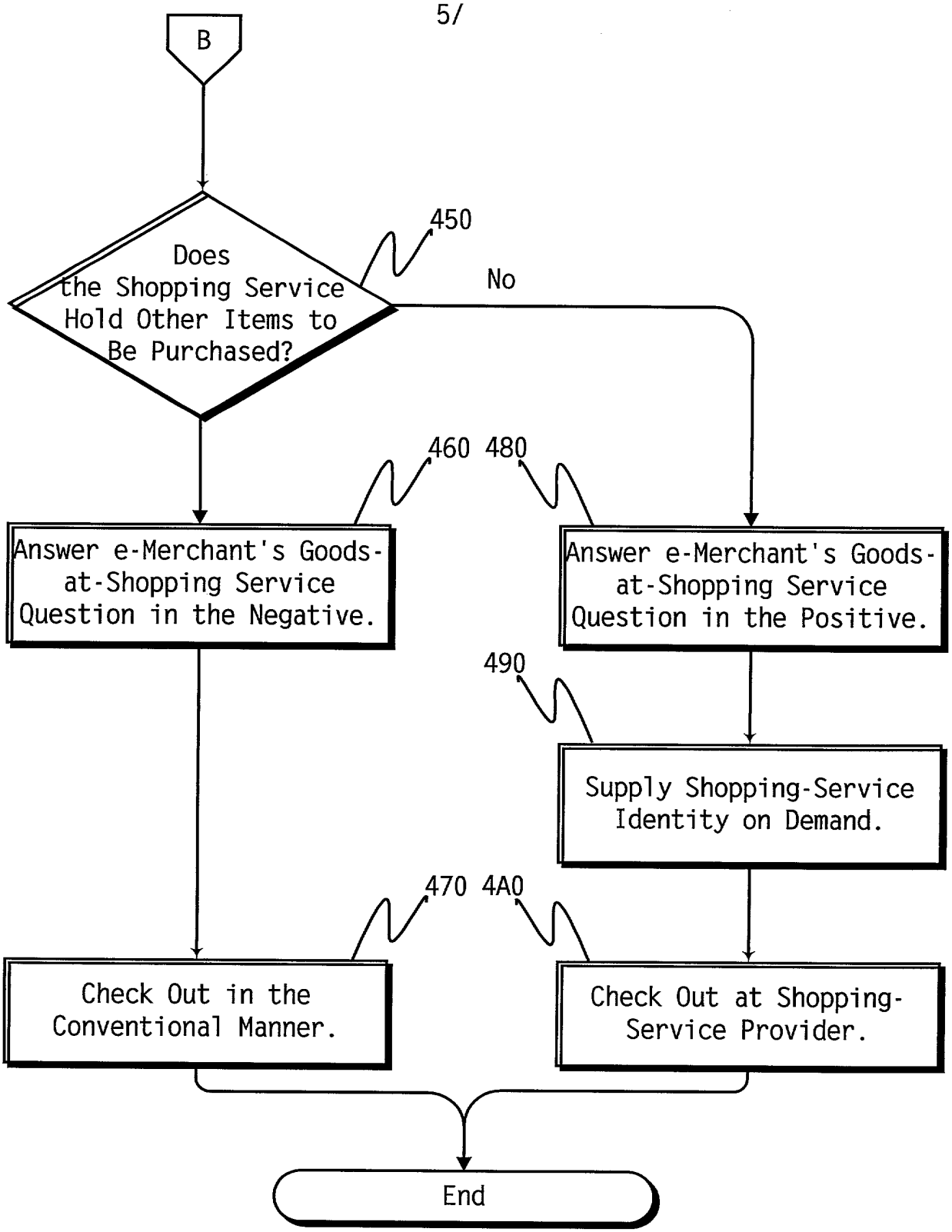

B
Does the Shopping Service Hold Other Items to Be Purchased?
450
No
460
480
Answer e-Merchant's Goods-at-Shopping Service Question in the Negative.
Answer e-Merchant's Goods-at-Shopping Service Question in the Positive.
490
Supply Shopping-Service Identity on Demand.
470
4A0
Check Out in the Conventional Manner.
Check Out at Shopping-Service Provider.
End

Figure 4B

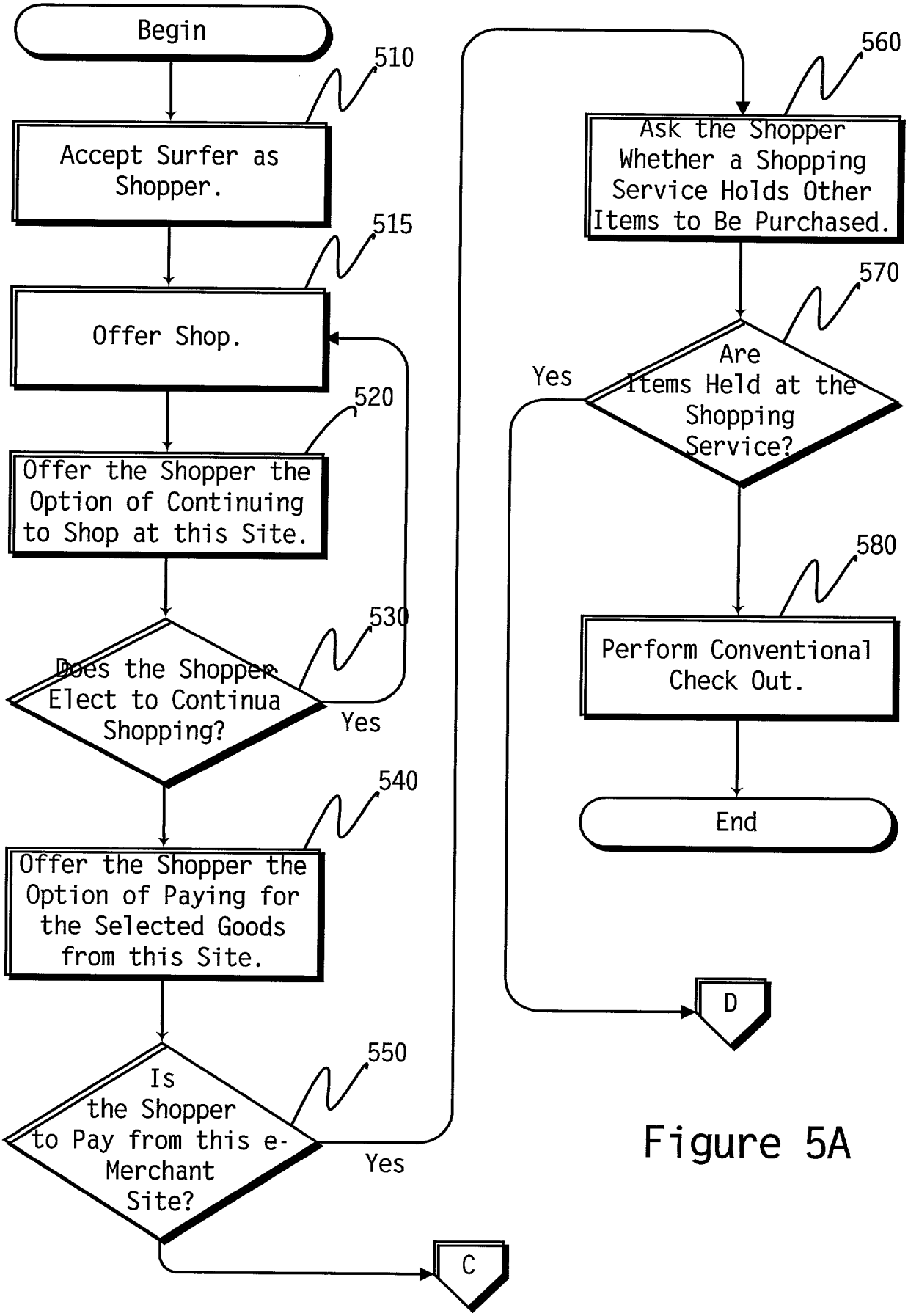

Begin
510
Accept Surfer as Shopper.
515
Offer Shop.
520
Offer the Shopper the Option of Continuing to Shop at this Site.
530
Does the Shopper Elect to Continua Shopping?
Yes
540
Offer the Shopper the Option of Paying for the Selected Goods from this Site.
550
Is the Shopper to Pay from this e-Merchant Site?
Yes
C
560
Ask the Shopper Whether a Shopping Service Holds Other Items to Be Purchased.
570
Are Items Held at the Shopping Service?
Yes
580
Perform Conventional Check Out.
End
D

Figure 5A

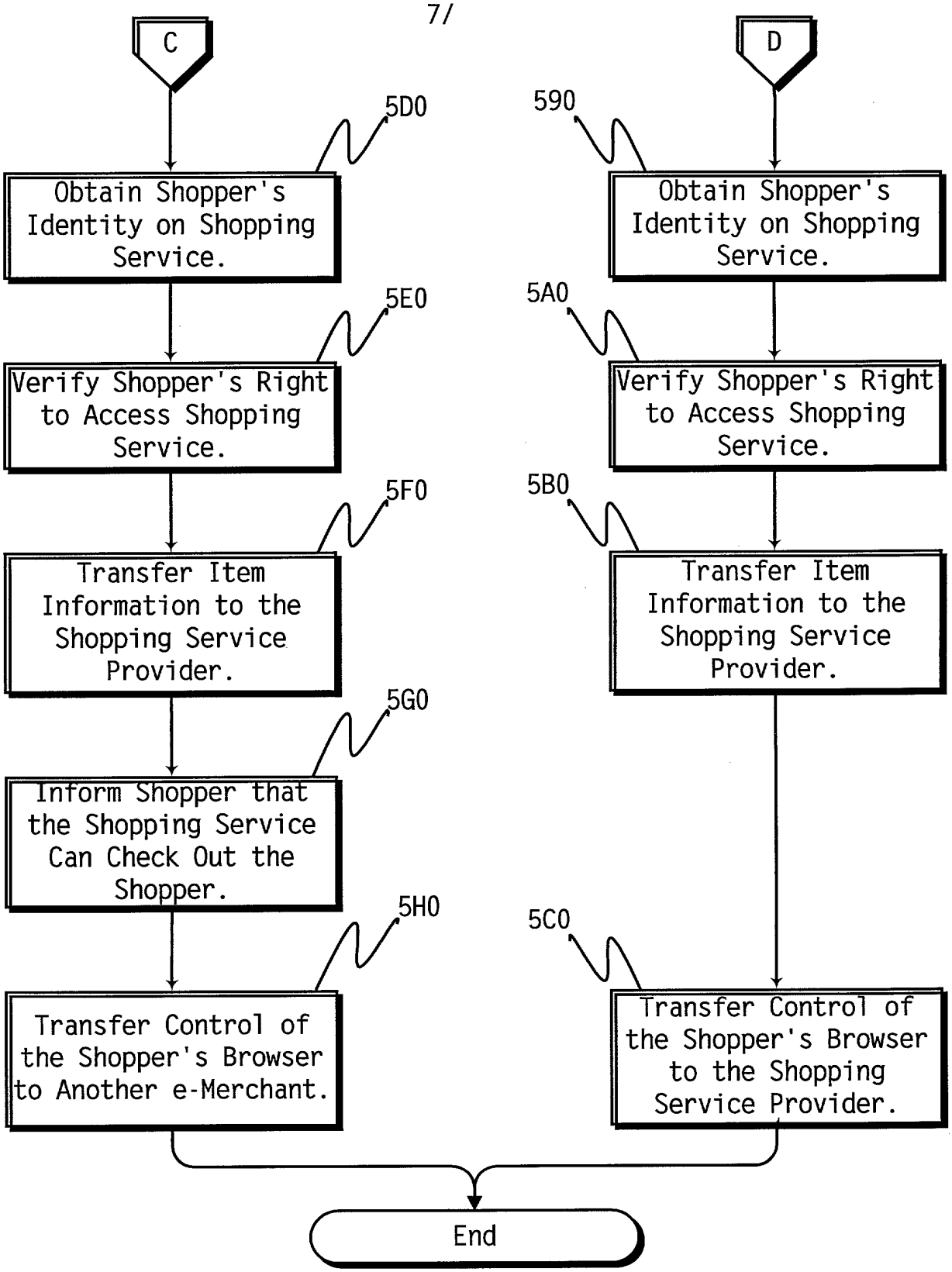
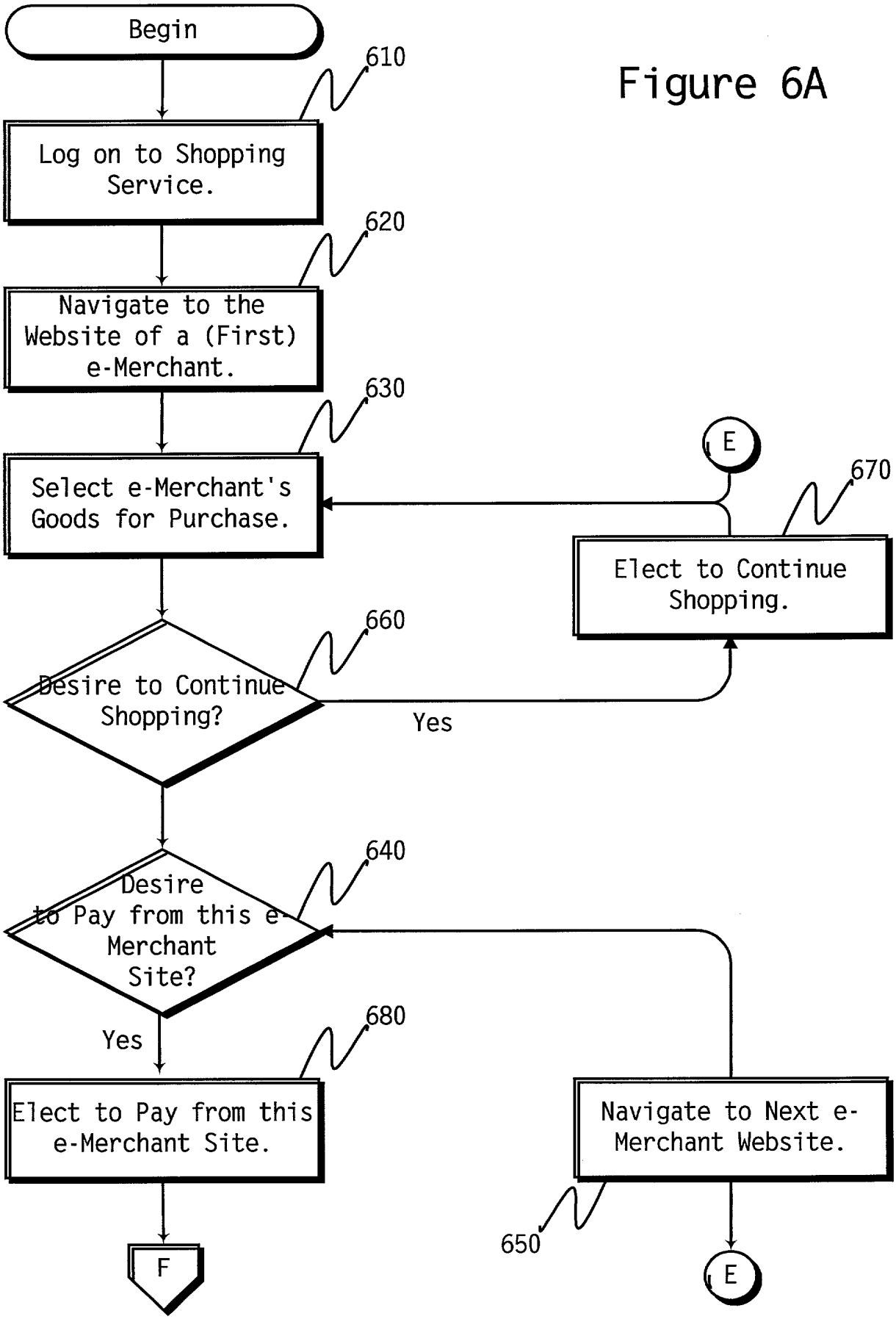

C
D
5D0
590
Obtain Shopper's Identity on Shopping Service.
Obtain Shopper's Identity on Shopping Service.
5E0
5A0
Verify Shopper's Right to Access Shopping Service.
Verify Shopper's Right to Access Shopping Service.
5F0
5B0
Transfer Item Information to the Shopping Service Provider.
Transfer Item Information to the Shopping Service Provider.
5G0
Inform Shopper that the Shopping Service Can Check Out the Shopper.
5H0
5C0
Transfer Control of the Shopper's Browser to Another e-Merchant.
Transfer Control of the Shopper's Browser to the Shopping Service Provider.
End

Figure 5B

Figure 6A


Begin
610
Log on to Shopping Service.
620
Navigate to the Website of a (First) e-Merchant.
630
Select e-Merchant's Goods for Purchase.
E
670
Elect to Continue Shopping.
660
Desire to Continue Shopping?
Yes
640
Desire to Pay from this e-Merchant Site?
Yes
680
Elect to Pay from this e-Merchant Site.
F
Navigate to Next e-Merchant Website.
650
E

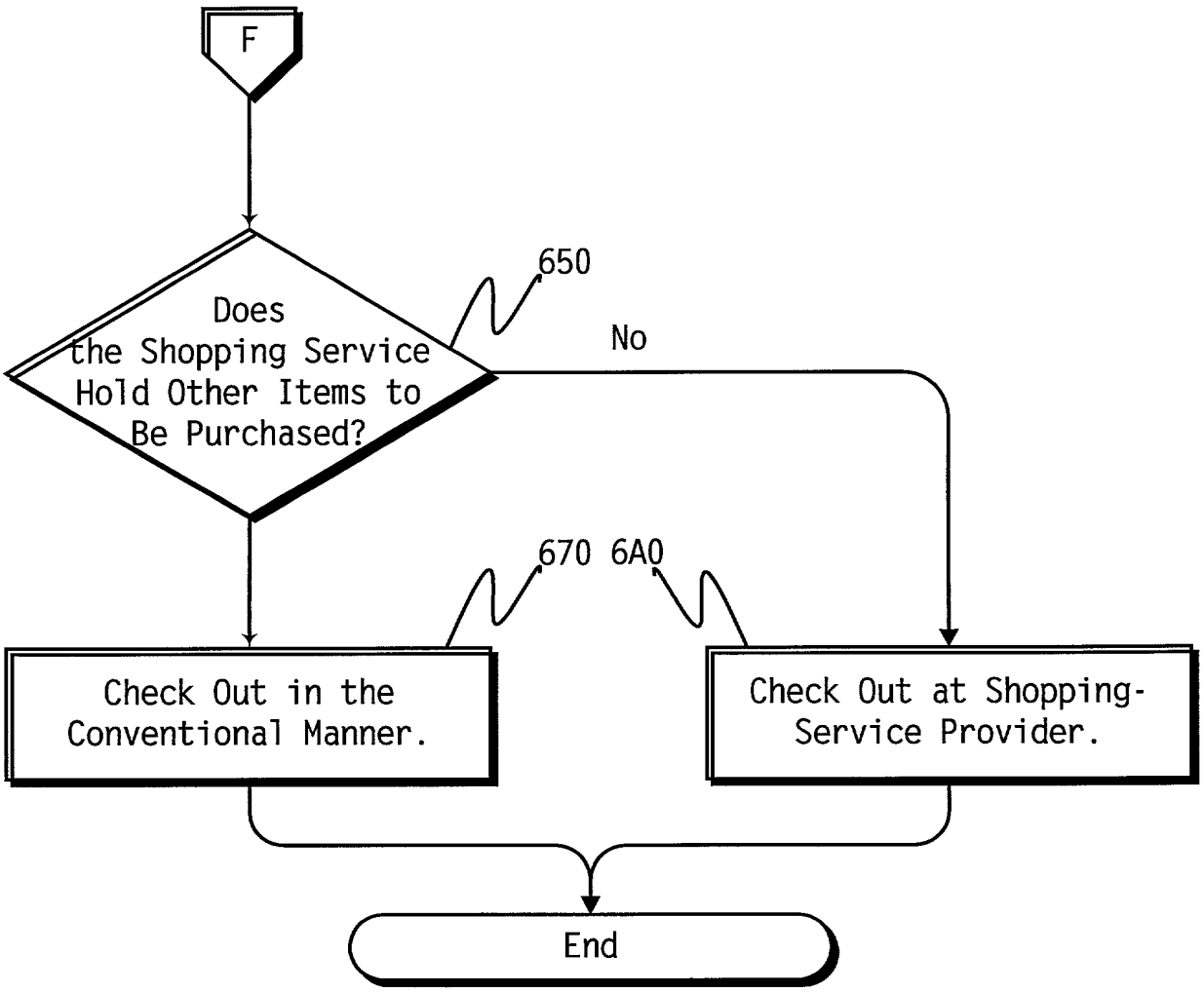

F
Does the Shopping Service Hold Other Items to Be Purchased?
650
No
670
6A0
Check Out in the Conventional Manner.
Check Out at Shopping-Service Provider.
End

Figure 6B

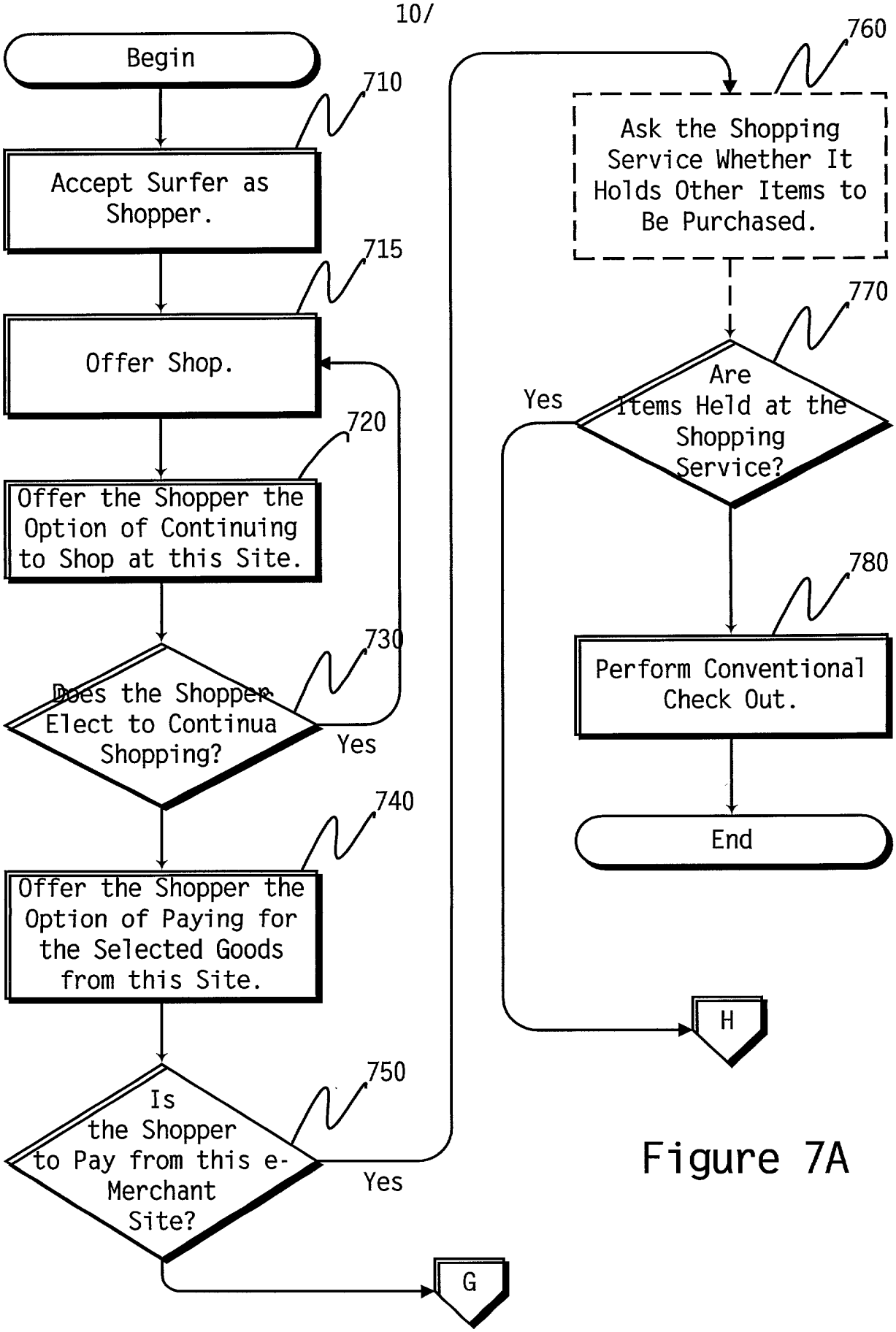

Begin
710
Accept Surfer as Shopper.
715
Offer Shop.
720
Offer the Shopper the Option of Continuing to Shop at this Site.
730
Does the Shopper Elect to Continua Shopping?
Yes
740
Offer the Shopper the Option of Paying for the Selected Goods from this Site.
750
Is the Shopper to Pay from this e-Merchant Site?
Yes
G
760
Ask the Shopping Service Whether It Holds Other Items to Be Purchased.
770
Are Items Held at the Shopping Service?
Yes
780
Perform Conventional Check Out.
End
H

Figure 7A

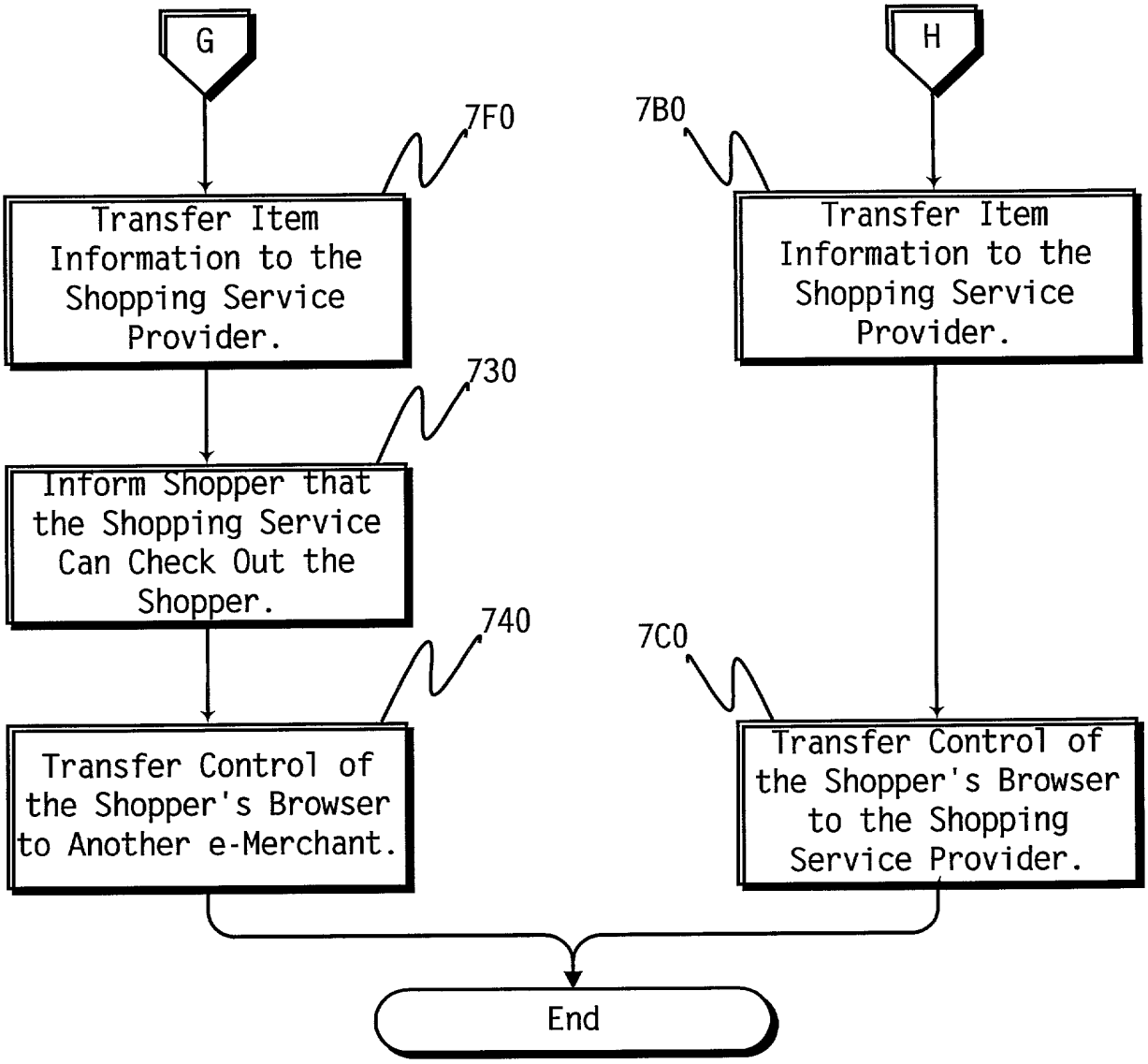

G
H
7F0
7B0
Transfer Item Information to the Shopping Service Provider.
Transfer Item Information to the Shopping Service Provider.
730
Inform Shopper that the Shopping Service Can Check Out the Shopper.
740
7C0
Transfer Control of the Shopper's Browser to Another e-Merchant.
Transfer Control of the Shopper's Browser to the Shopping Service Provider.
End

Figure 7B

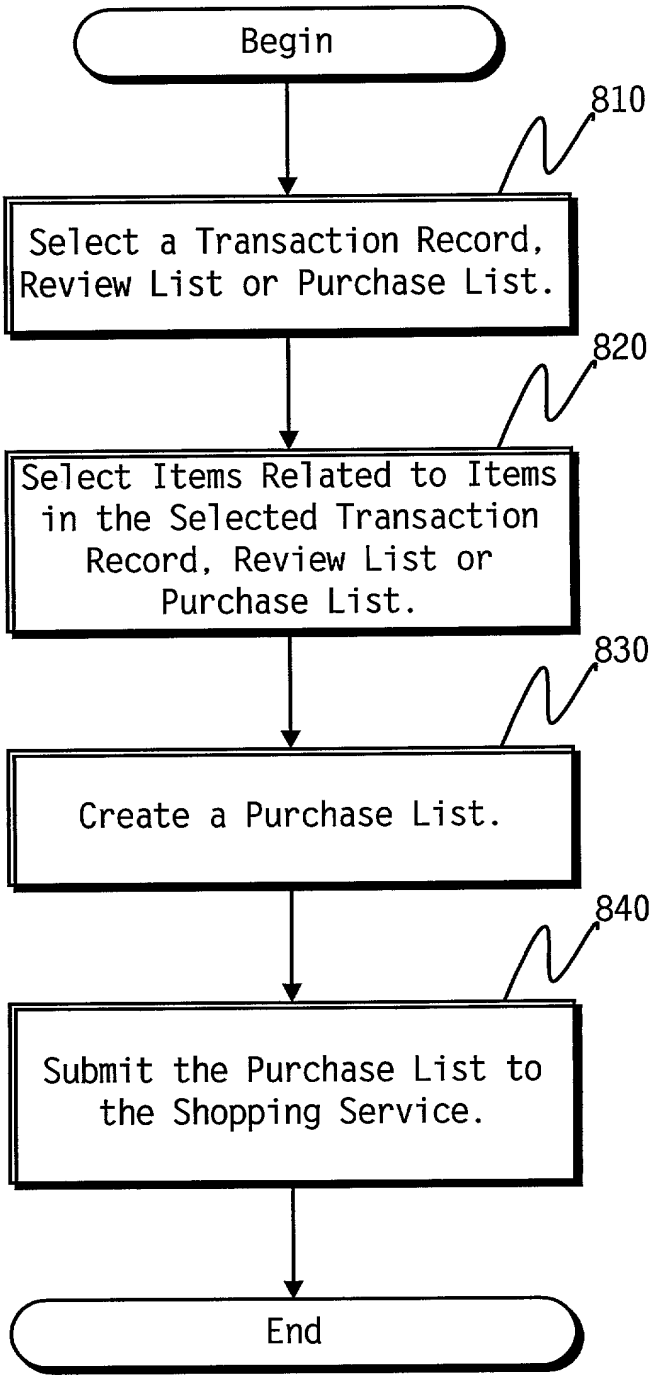

Begin
810
Select a Transaction Record, Review List or Purchase List.
820
Select Items Related to Items in the Selected Transaction Record, Review List or Purchase List.
830
Create a Purchase List.
840
Submit the Purchase List to the Shopping Service.
End

Figure 8

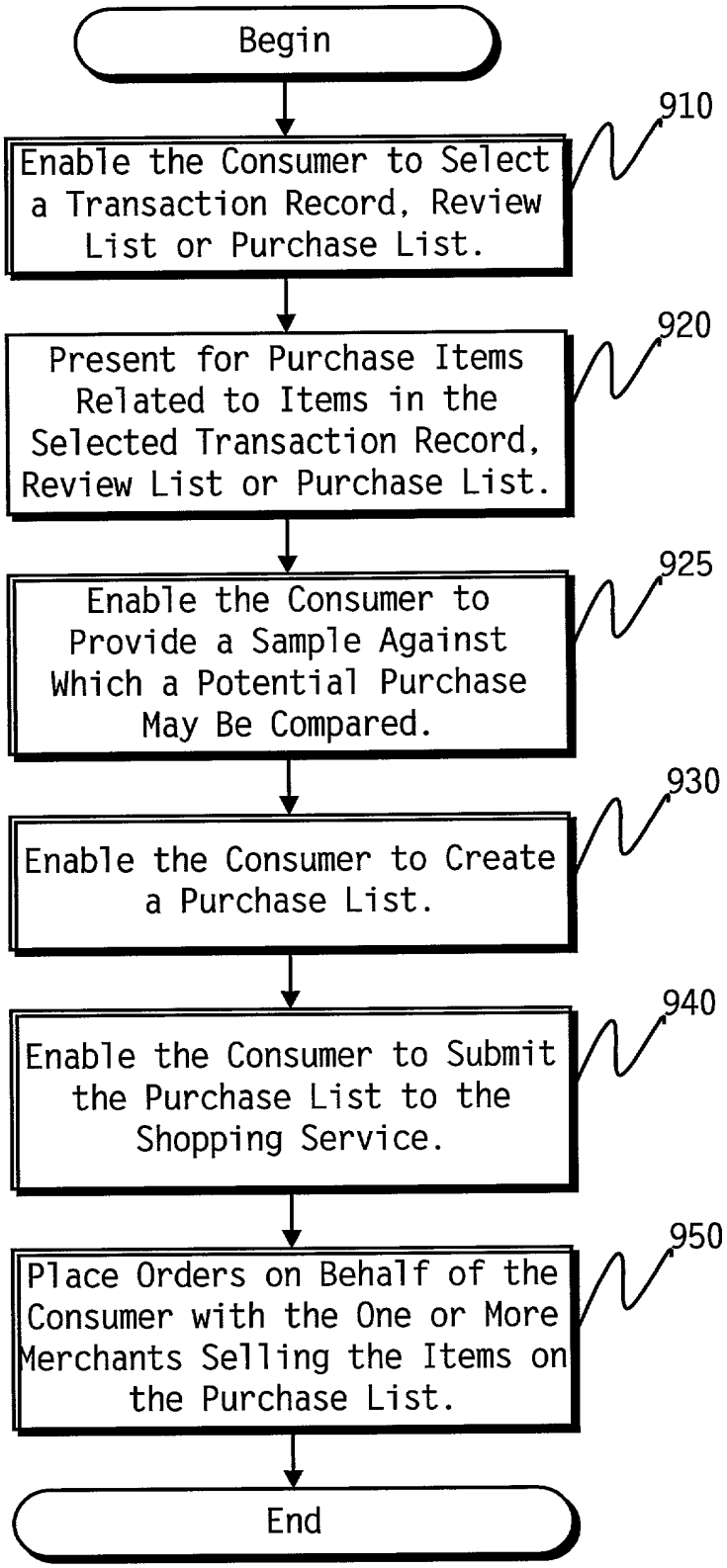

Begin
Enable the Consumer to Select a Transaction Record, Review List or Purchase List.
910
Present for Purchase Items Related to Items in the Selected Transaction Record, Review List or Purchase List.
920
Enable the Consumer to Provide a Sample Against Which a Potential Purchase May Be Compared.
925
Enable the Consumer to Create a Purchase List.
930
Enable the Consumer to Submit the Purchase List to the Shopping Service.
940
Place Orders on Behalf of the Consumer with the One or More Merchants Selling the Items on the Purchase List.
950
End

Figure 9

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled AN ELECTRONIC SHOPPING SERVICE, the specification of which

(check one)

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____ and was amended on _____. (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed	
			☐	☐
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes	No
			☐	☐
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes	No
			☐	☐
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes	No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)

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San Francisco, California 94111-4187

File No. A-69227/MAK/LM

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Title 18, United States Code, §1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of first inventor: Anandakumar Varatharajah

Inventor's signature: _____

Date: _____

Residence: Hendella, Wattala

Citizenship: SRI LANKA

Post Office Address: 99/7, Alwis Town, Hendella, Wattala, SRI LANKA

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